

# GLASGOW WEEKLY TIMES.

GREEN & SHIRLEY,

"ERROR CEASES TO BE DANGEROUS, WHEN REASON IS LEFT FREE TO COMBAT IT."—JEFFERSON.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

Under the benignant providence of an Almighty God, the representatives of the States and of the people, are again brought together, to deliberate for the public good. The gratitude of the nation to the sovereign Arbitrator of all human events, should be commensurate with the boundless blessings which we enjoy. Peace, plenty and contentment, reign throughout our borders, and our beloved country presents a sublime moral spectacle to the world. The troubled and unsettled condition of some of the European powers, has had a necessary tendency to check and embarrass trade and to depress prices throughout all commercial nations; but, notwithstanding these causes, the United States, with their abundant products, have felt their effects less severely than any other country, and all our great interests are still prosperous and successful. In reviewing the great events of the past year, and contrasting the agitated and disturbed state of other countries with our own tranquil and happy condition, we may congratulate ourselves, that we are the most favored people on the face of the earth. While the people of other countries are struggling to establish free institutions, under which man may govern himself, we are in the actual enjoyment of them—a rich inheritance from our fathers—and while enlightened nations of Europe are convulsed and distracted by civil war, or intestine strife, we settle all our political controversies by the peaceful exercise of the rights of freemen, at the ballot box. The great republican maxim, so deeply engraved on the hearts of our people, that the will of the majority, constitutionally expressed, shall prevail, is our sure safe-guard against force and violence.

It is a subject of just pride, that our fame and character as a nation continue rapidly to advance in the estimation of the civilized world. To our wise and free institutions, it is to be attributed, that, while other nations have achieved glory at the price of the suffering, distress, and impoverishment of their people, we have gained our honorable position in the midst of an uninterrupted prosperity, and of an increasing individual comfort and happiness.

I am happy to inform you, that our relations with all nations are friendly and pacific. Advantageous treaties of commerce have been concluded within the last four years, with New Grenada, Peru, the two Sicilies, Belgium, Hanover, Oldenburg, and Mecklenburgh. Pursuing our example the restrictive system of Great Britain, our principle foreign customer, has been relaxed; and a more liberal commercial policy has been adopted by other enlightened nations, and our trade has been greatly enlarged and extended. Our country stands higher in the respect of the world than at any former period. To continue to occupy this proud position, it is only necessary to preserve peace and faithfully adhere to the great fundamental principle of our foreign policy—no interference in the domestic concerns of other nations. We recognize in all nations the rights which we enjoy ourselves, and to change and reform their political institutions according to their own will and pleasure. Nor do we look behind existing governments capable of maintaining their own authority. We recognize all such actual governments, not only from the dictates of true policy, but from a sacred regard for the independence of nations.

While this is our settled policy, it does not follow that we can ever be indifferent spectators of the progress of liberal principles. The Government and the people of the United States witnessed, with enthusiasm and delight, the establishment of the French Republic, as we now hail the efforts in progress to unite the States of Germany in a confederation similar in many respects, to our own federal Union. If the great and enlightened German States, occupying, as they do, the central and commanding position in Europe, shall succeed in establishing such a confederated Government, securing at the same time to the citizens of each State local Governments adapted to the peculiar condition of each—unrestricted trade and intercourse with each other—it will be an important era in human events. Whilst it will consolidate and strengthen the power of Germany, it must essentially promote the cause of peace, commerce, civilization, and constitutional liberty, throughout the world.

With all the Governments on this continent, our relations, it is believed, are now on a more friendly and satisfactory footing than they ever have been at any former period.

Since the exchange of ratifications of the treaty of peace with Mexico, our intercourse with the Governments of the Mexican Republic has been of the most friendly character. The Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States to Mexico, has been received and accredited; and a diplomatic representative from Mexico, of similar rank, has been received and accredited to this Government. The amicable relations between the two countries, which had been suspended, have been happily restored, and are destined, I trust, to be long preserved. The two Republics, both situated on this continent, and with contiguous territories, have every motive for sympathy of feeling and of interests, to bind them together in perpetual amity.

This gratifying condition of our foreign relations, renders it unnecessary for me to

call your attention more particularly to them.

It has been my constant aim and desire to cultivate peace and amity with all nations. Tranquility at home, and peaceful relations abroad, continue the true, permanent policy of our country. War—the scourge of nations—sometimes becomes inevitable, but is always to be avoided when it can be done consistently with the rights and honor of the nation. One of the most important results of the war into which we were recently brought with a neighboring nation, is the demonstration it has afforded of the military strength of our country. Before the late war with Mexico, European and other foreign powers, entertained imperfect and erroneous views of our physical strength as a nation, and of our ability to prosecute war, and a war out of our own country. They saw that our standing army on the peace establishment did not exceed 10,000 men. Accustomed, themselves, to maintain in peace large standing armies, for the protection of thrones against their own subjects, as well as against foreign enemies, they had not conceived that it was possible for a nation without such an army, well disciplined and of long service, to wage war successfully. They held in low repute our militia, and were far from regarding them as an effective force, unless it might be for temporary defensive operations, when invaded on our own soil. The events of the late war with Mexico have not only undeceived them, but have removed erroneous impressions which prevailed, to some extent, even among our own countrymen. But this war has demonstrated that, upon the breaking out of hostilities, not anticipated, and for which no previous preparations had been made, a volunteer army of citizen-soldiers, equal to veteran troops, and in numbers equal to any emergency, can, in a short period, be brought into the field. Unlike what would have occurred in any other country, we were under no necessity of resorting to drafts or conscriptions; on the contrary, such was the number of volunteers who patriotically tendered their services, that the chief difficulty was in making selections, and discriminating who should be disappointed and compelled to remain at home. Our citizen-soldiers are unlike those drawn from the population. They are composed indiscriminately, of all professions and pursuits—of farmers, lawyers, physicians, merchants, manufacturers, mechanics and laborers—and this not only among the officers, but the private soldiers in the ranks. Our citizen-soldiers are unlike those of any other country, in other respects; they are armed, and have been accustomed from their youth up, to handle and use fire-arms; and a large proportion of them, especially in the western and more newly settled States, are expert. They are men who have a reputation to maintain at home by their good conduct in the field, and they are intelligent; and there is an individuality of character which is found in the ranks of no other army. In battle each private man, as well as every officer, fights not only for his country, but for glory and distinction among his fellow-citizens, when he shall return to civil life.

The war with Mexico has demonstrated not only the ability of the Government to organize a numerous army, upon a sudden call, but also to provide it with all the munitions and necessary supplies, with dispatch, convenience, and ease, and to direct its operations with efficiency. The strength of our institutions has not only been displayed in the valor and skill of our troops engaged in active service in the field, but in an organization of those executive branches which were charged with the general direction and conduct of the war.

While too great praise cannot be bestowed upon the officers and men who fought our battles, yet it would be unjust to withhold from those officers necessarily stationed at home, who were charged with the duty of furnishing the army, in proper time and at proper places, with all the munitions of war and other supplies necessary to make it effectual, the commendation to which they are entitled. The credit due to this class of our officers is the greater, when it is considered, that no army in ancient or modern times, was ever better appointed or provided than our army in Mexico. Operating in an enemy's country—removed two thousand miles from the seat of the Federal Government, its different corps spread over a vast extent of territory, hundreds and even thousands of miles apart from each other—nothing short of the undying vigilance and extraordinary energy of these officers, could have enabled them to provide the army at all points, and in proper season, with all that was required for the most efficient service.

It is but an act of justice to declare, that the officers in charge of the several executive bureaus, all under the immediate supervision of the Secretary of War, performed their respective duties with ability, energy, and efficiency.

They have reaped less of the glory of the war, not having been personally exposed to its perils in battle, than their companions in arms; but without their forecast, efficient aid and co-operation, those in the field would not have been provided with the ample means they possessed, of achieving for themselves, and their country, unfading honors, won for both.

When all these facts are considered, it may cease to be a matter of so much amazement, how it happened that our noble army in Mexico, regulars and volunteers, were victorious upon every battlefield, however fearful the odds against them.

The war with Mexico has thus fully de-

veloped the capacity of Republican Governments to prosecute successfully, a necessary foreign war, with all the vigor usually attributed to more arbitrary forms of government. It has been usual for writers on public law to impute to republics a want of that unity and concentration of purpose, of vigor of execution, which are generally admitted to belong to the monarchical and aristocratic forms; and this feature of popular government has been supposed to display itself more particularly in the conduct of a war carried on in an enemy's country.

The war with Mexico has developed, most strongly and conspicuously, another feature of our institutions. It is, that without cost to the government, or danger to our liberty, we have in the bosom of our country freemen available, in a just and necessary war particularly, a standing army of two millions of armed citizen-soldiers such as fought the battles of Mexico.

But military strength does not consist alone in our capacity for extended and successful operations on land. I refer to the Navy—an independent arm of the National defence. If the services of the Navy were not brilliant as those of the army, in the late war with Mexico, it was because they had no enemy to meet on their own element. While the army had an opportunity of performing more conspicuous service, the Navy performed their whole duty to the country. For the able and gallant services of the officers and men of the Navy, acting independently as well as in co-operation with our troops in the conquest of the Californias, the capture of Vera Cruz, and the seizure and occupation of other important positions on the Gulf and Pacific coast, the highest praise is due. Their vigilance, energy and skill, rendered the most effective in excluding the munitions of war and other supplies from the enemy, while they secured a safe entrance for abundant supplies for their own army. Our extended commerce was nowhere interrupted, and for this immunity from the evils of war, the country is indebted to the Navy.

High praise is due to the officers of the several Executive bureaus, navy yards, and stations connected with the service, all under the immediate direction of the Secretary of the Navy, for the industry, foresight and energy with which every thing was directed and furnished, to give efficiency to that branch of the service. While this harmony existed in directing the preparation of the navy as of the army, there was concert of action and purpose between the heads of the two arms of the service. By the orders which were from time to time issued, our vessels of war, on the Pacific and the Gulf of Mexico, were stationed in proper time, and in proper position, to co-operate efficiently with the army. By this means, their combined power was brought to bear successfully upon the enemy. The great results which have been developed and brought to light by this war, will be of immeasurable importance in the future progress of our country. They will tend powerfully to preserve us from foreign collisions and enable us to pursue uninterrupted, our cherished policy—peace with all nations, entangling alliances with none.

Occupying, as we do, a more commanding position among nations than at any former period, our duties and our responsibilities to ourselves and our posterity, are correspondingly increased. This will be the more obvious when we consider the vast additions which have recently been made to our territorial acquisitions, and their great importance and value.

Within less than four years, the annexation of Texas to the Union has been consummated, and conflicting titles to the Oregon Territory south of forty-nine degrees of north Latitude, being all that was insisted on by any of my predecessors, has been adjusted; and New Mexico and Upper California have been acquired by treaty. The area of these several territories, according to the report carefully prepared by the commissioner of the General Land Office, from the most authentic information in his possession and which is herewith transmitted, is one million one hundred and ninety-three thousand six hundred and sixty-three square miles, or seven hundred and sixty-three millions five hundred and fifty-nine thousand and forty acres. These estimates show, that the territories recently acquired, and over which our exclusive jurisdiction and dominion have been extended, constitutes a country more than half as large as that which was held by the United States before this acquisition. If Oregon be excluded from the estimate, there will still remain within the limits of Texas, New Mexico and California, eight hundred and fifty-one thousand five hundred and ninety-eight square miles, or five hundred and forty-five millions one hundred and twenty thousand seven hundred and twenty acres, being an addition equal to more than one-third of all the territory owned by the United States before this acquisition, and including Oregon, nearly as great an extent of territory as the whole of Europe. Russia only excepted.

The Mississippi, so lately a frontier of our country, is now only its centre. With the addition of the late acquisition, the United States are now estimated to be nearly as large as the whole of Europe.

It is estimated by the Superintendent of the Coast Survey, in the accompanying report, that the extent of the sea coast of Texas on the Gulf of Mexico, is upwards of 400 miles; of the coast of Upper California on the Pacific, 970 miles; and of Oregon, including the straits of Fuca, of 650 miles—making the whole extent of sea

coast on the Pacific 1620, and the whole extent on the Pacific and the Gulf of Mexico 2,000 miles. The length of the coast of the United States around the Capes of Florida to the Sabine, on the eastern boundary of Texas, is estimated to be 3000 miles; so that the addition of sea coast, including Oregon, is very nearly two thirds as great as all possessed before, and including Oregon, an addition of 1,870 miles; being nearly equal to one half of the extent of coast which we possessed before. We have now three great maritime fronts, on the Atlantic, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Pacific, making in the whole an extent of coast exceeding 5000 miles. This is the extent of the sea coast of the States, not including bays, sounds, and small irregularities of the main shore, and of the sea islands. If these be included, the length of the shore line of coast, as estimated by the Superintendent of the Coast Survey, would be 33063 miles.

It would be difficult to calculate the value of these immense additions to our territorial possessions.

Texas, lying contiguous to the western boundary of Louisiana, embracing within its limits a part of the navigable tributary waters of the Mississippi, and an extensive sea coast, could not long have remained in the hands of a foreign power, without endangering the peace of our south-western frontier. Her products in the vicinity of the tributaries through these streams, running into and through our territory, and the danger of irritation and collision of interests between Texas, as a foreign State, and ourselves, would have been imminent, while the embarrassments of commercial intercourse must have been constant and unavoidable.

Had Texas fallen into their hands, or under the influence and control of a strong maritime or military or foreign power, as she might have done, these dangers would have been still greater. They have been avoided by her voluntary and peaceful annexation to the United States. Texas from her position, was a natural and most indispensable part of our territory. Fortunately, she has been restored to our country, and now constitutes one of the States of our confederacy, with an equal footing with the original States. The salubrity of the climate and fertility of the soil, peculiarly adapted to the production of some of our most valuable and staple commodities, and her commercial advantages, must make her soon one of our most populous States.

New Mexico, though situated in the interior, and without a sea coast, is known to contain much fertile land, and to abound in rich mines of the precious metals, and to be capable of sustaining a large population. From its position, it is the intermediate and connecting territory between our settlements and our possessions in Texas and those on the Pacific coast.

Upper California, irrespective of the vast mineral wealth recently developed there, holds, at this day, in point of value and importance, to the rest of the Union, the same relation that Louisiana did when that fine territory was acquired from France forty-five years ago. Extending nearly 10 degrees of latitude along the Pacific, and embracing the only safe and commodious harbor on that coast for many hundred miles, with a temperate climate and extensive interior of fertile lands, it is scarcely possible to estimate its value until it shall be brought under the government of our laws, and its resources fully developed. From its position, it must command the rich commerce of China, of Asia, of the Islands of the Pacific, of Western Mexico, of Central America, the South American States, and of the Russian possessions bordering on that ocean. A great emporium will, doubtless, speedily arise on the California coast, which may be destined to rival in importance New Orleans itself. The depot of the vast commerce which must exist on the Pacific, will be at some point on the bay of San Francisco, and will occupy the same relation to the western coast of that ocean as New Orleans does to the Valley of the Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico. To this depot, our numerous whale ships will resort with their cargoes to trade, refit and obtain supplies. This trade will largely contribute to build up a city which will soon become a centre of a great and rapidly increasing commerce. Situated on a safe harbor, sufficiently capacious for all the navies, as well as the marts of the world, and convenient to excellent timber for ship building, owned by the United States, it must become our great Western depot.

It was known that mines of the precious metals existed to considerable extent in California, at the time of its occupation. Recent discoveries render it probable, that these mines are more extensive and valuable than was anticipated. The accounts of the abundance of gold in that territory are of such an extraordinary character as would scarcely command belief, were they not corroborated by the authentic report of officers in the public service, who have visited the mineral districts and derived the facts from personal observation. Reluctant to credit the reports in general circulation as to the quantity of gold, the officer commanding our forces in California visited the mineral district in July last for the purpose of obtaining accurate information on the subject. His report to the War Department of the result of his examination, and the facts obtained on the spot, are herewith laid before Congress. When he visited the country there were about 4,000 persons engaged in collecting gold. There is every reason to believe that the number of persons so employed has since been

augmented. The explorations already made warrant the belief that the supply is very large, and that gold is found in various points in an extensive district of country.

Information received from officers and other sources, though not so full and minute confirm the account of the commander of our military force in California. It appears, also, from these reports, that mines of quicksilver are found in the vicinity of the gold region. One of them is now being worked, and is believed to be one of the most productive in the world.

The effects produced by the discovery of these rich mineral deposits, and the success which has attended the labors of those who have resorted to them, have produced a surprising change in the state of affairs in California. Labor commands a most exorbitant price and all other pursuits but that of searching for the precious metals are abandoned. Nearly the whole male population of the country have gone to the gold district. Ships arriving on the coast are deserted by their crews, and their voyage suspended for want of sailors. Our commanding officer there entertains apprehensions that soldiers cannot be kept in the public service without a large increase of pay. Desertions in his command have become frequent, and he recommends that those who shall withstand the strong temptation and remain faithful shall be rewarded.

This abundance of gold, and the all engrossing pursuit of it, has already caused in California an unprecedented rise in the necessities of life.

That we may the more speedily and fully avail ourselves of the undeveloped wealth of these mines, it is deemed of vast importance, that a branch of the mint of the United States, be authorized to be established during the present season in California. Among other signal advantages which would result from such an establishment, would be the raising the gold to its par value in that territory. A branch mint of the United States at that great commercial depot of the west coast, would convert into our coin, not only the gold derived from our rich mines but also the bullion and specie which our commerce may bring from the whole west coast, Central and South America. The west coast of America, and the adjacent interior, embrace the best mines of New Mexico, New Grenada, Central America, Chili and Peru.

The bullion and specie drawn from these countries, and especially from those of New Mexico and Peru, to an amount in value of many millions of dollars, are now annually diverted, and carried by the ships of Great Britain to her own ports, to be received or used by her to sustain her National Banks, and thus contribute to increase her ability to command so much of the commerce of the world. If a branch mint be established at the great commercial point of that coast, a vast amount of bullion and specie would flow thither, to be received and pass thence to New Orleans and New York, and other Atlantic cities. The amount of our Constitutional currency at home would be greatly increased, while its circulation would be promoted. It is well known to our merchants trading to China and the west coast of America, that great inconvenience and loss are experienced from the fact, that our coins are not current at their par value in those countries.

The powers of Europe, removed from the west coast of America by the Atlantic ocean, which intervenes, and by the tedious and dangerous navigation around the cape of the continent of America, can never successfully compete with the United States in the rich and extensive commerce which is opened to us at so much less cost, by the acquisition of California.

The vast importance and commercial advantages of California has heretofore remained undeveloped by the Government of the country of which it constituted a part. Now that this fine province is a part of our country, all of the States of the Union, some more immediately and directly than others, are deeply interested in the speedy development of its wealth and resources. No section of our country is more interested, or will be more benefited, than the commercial, navigational and manufacturing interests of the Eastern States. Our planting and farming interests, in every part of the Union, will be greatly benefited by it. As our commerce and navigation are enlarged and extended, our exports of agricultural products, and our manufactures, will be increased, and in the new markets thus opened they cannot fail to command remuneration and profitable price.

The acquisition of California and New Mexico; the settlement of the Oregon boundary, and the annexation of Texas, extending to the Rio Grande, are results which, combined, are of greater consequence, and will add more to the strength and wealth of the nation than any which have preceded them since the adoption of the Constitution.

But to effect these results, not only California but New Mexico must be brought under the control of regular organized governments. The existing condition of California, and of that part of New Mexico lying west of the Rio Grande and without the limits of Texas, imperiously demand that Congress should, at its present session, organize territorial governments over them.

Upon the exchange of the ratification of the treaty of peace with Mexico, on the 30th of May, the temporary government which had been established over Mexico ceased to exist. Impressed with the necessity of establishing territorial governments over them, I recommended to the favorable consideration of Congress in my message communicating the ratified treaty of

peace, on the 6th of July last, and invoked their action. Congress adjourned without making any provision for their government. The inhabitants, by the transfer of their country, had become entitled to the benefits of our laws and constitution, and yet were left without any regularly organized government. Since that time, a very limited power, possessed by the Executive, has been exercised to preserve and protect them from the inevitable consequence of a state of anarchy.

The only government which remained was that established by military authority during the war. Regarding this as a *de facto* government, and that by the presumed consent of the inhabitants, it might be continued temporarily, they were advised to conform and submit to it for the short intervening period before Congress again assembled, and could legislate on the subject.

The views entertained by the Executive on this point, are contained in a communication of the Secretary of State, dated on the 7th of October last, which was forwarded for publication to California and New Mexico, a copy of which is herewith transmitted. The small military force of the regular army which was serving within the limits of the acquired territories, at the close of the war, remained in them, and additional forces have been ordered there for the protection of the inhabitants, and to preserve and secure the rights and interests of the United States.

No revenue has been, or could be, collected at the ports in California, because Congress failed to authorize the establishment of Custom Houses, or the appointment of officers for that purpose. The Secretary of the Treasury, by circular letter addressed to Collectors of the Customs on the 7th day of October last, (a copy of which is transmitted) exercised all the power which which he was invested by law.

In pursuance of the act of the 11th August last, extending all the benefit of the Post Office laws to the people of California, the Post Master General has appointed two agents, who have proceeded, the one to California and the other to Oregon, with authority to make the necessary arrangements for carrying its provisions into effect.

The monthly line of mail steamers, from Panama, has been required to deliver and take mails at San Diego, Monterey, and San Francisco.

These mail steamers, connected at the Isthmus of Panama with the line of mail steamers on the Atlantic between New York and Chagres, will establish a regular commercial route with California.

It is our solemn duty to provide, with the least possible delay, for New Mexico and California, regular organized governments. The causes of the failure to do this, at the last session of Congress, are well known and deeply to be regretted. With the opening prospects, and increased national greatness, which the acquisition of these rich territories affords, how irrational it would be to forego, and to reject, these advantages, by the agitation of a domestic question, which is coeval with the existence of our government itself, and to endanger, by internal strifes, geographical divisions and heated contests for political power, or for any other cause, the harmony of the glorious union of our confederation—that union which binds us together as one people, and which, for sixty years, has been our shield and protection against every danger.

In the eyes of the world and posterity, how trivial and insignificant will be all our internal divisions and struggles, compared with this union of the States with all its valor and countless blessings. No patriot would foment or excite geographical and sectional divisions. No lover of his country would deliberately calculate the value of the Union. Future generations would look in amazement upon the folly of such a course. Other nations, at the present moment, would look upon it with astonishment, and such of those as desire to maintain and perpetuate thrones and monarchies or aristocratic principles will view it with exultation and delight, because in it they will see the element of faction which they hope must ultimately overthrow our system. Ours is the great example of a prosperous and free self governed republic, commanding the admiration and the imitation of all lovers of freedom throughout the world.

How solemn, therefore, the duty—how impressive the call upon us, and upon all parts of our country—to cultivate a patriotic spirit of harmony, good fellowship, compromise and mutual concession, in the administration of the incomparable system of government formed by our fathers in the midst of almost insuperable difficulties, and transmitted to us with the injunction that we should enjoy its blessings, and hand it down unimpaired to those that may come after us.

In view of the high and responsible duties we owe to ourselves and mankind, I trust you may be able to approach the adjustment of the only domestic question which seriously threatens, or probably ever can threaten, to disturb the harmony and successful operation of our system.

The immensely valuable possessions of New Mexico and California, are already inhabited by a considerable population, attracted by their great fertility—their mineral wealth—their commercial advantages, and the salubrity of the climate. Emigrants from the older States, in great numbers, are already preparing to seek new homes in these inviting regions.

Shall the dissimilarity of domestic institutions in the different States prevent us from providing for them suitable governments? These institutions existed at the adoption of the constitution; but the obstacles which they interposed, were overcome by that spirit of compromise which is now invoked. In conflict of opinions or of interest, real or imaginary, between different sections of our country, neither can justly demand all which it might desire to obtain; each, in the true spirit of our institutions, should concede something to the other.

Our gallant forces in the Mexican war, by whose patriotism and unparalleled deeds of arms, we obtained these possessions as an indemnity for our just demands against Mexico, were composed of citizens who belonged to no state or section of our union: they were men from slaveholding and non-slaveholding States, from the north and from the south, from the east and from the west. They were companions in arms, and fellow citizens of the same common country, engaged in the same common cause. When prosecuting that war, they